



National Park Visit Trends

(1979 - 2023)

Introduction

Overview

Regional/State

Seasonal/Monthly

Summary

The United States is home to 63 National Parks, attracting millions of visitors each year to enjoy the country's natural beauty and cultural history. Managed by the National Park Service (NPS), these parks provide not only recreational opportunities but also essential data to understand visitor trends and their impact. Since 1979, the NPS has collected visitation data to help allocate resources, maintain infrastructure, and assess economic contributions to surrounding communities. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, such as limited access for underrepresented groups and difficulties in accurately counting visits. The purpose is to analyze visitation patterns to support sustainable management practices and improve accessibility for all visitors.



Zion National Park (U.S National Park Service)



National Park Visit Trends

(1979 - 2023)

Introduction

Overview

Regional/State

Seasonal/Monthly

Summary

Year

Month

ParkName

Region

State

Unit Code

71.34M
Average Annual Visits

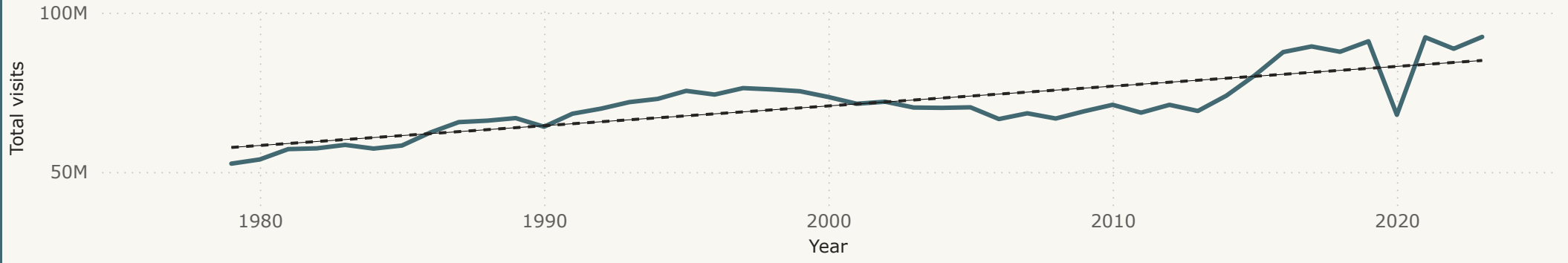
3.21bn
Total Recreation Visits

1.01bn
Total Non Recreation Visits

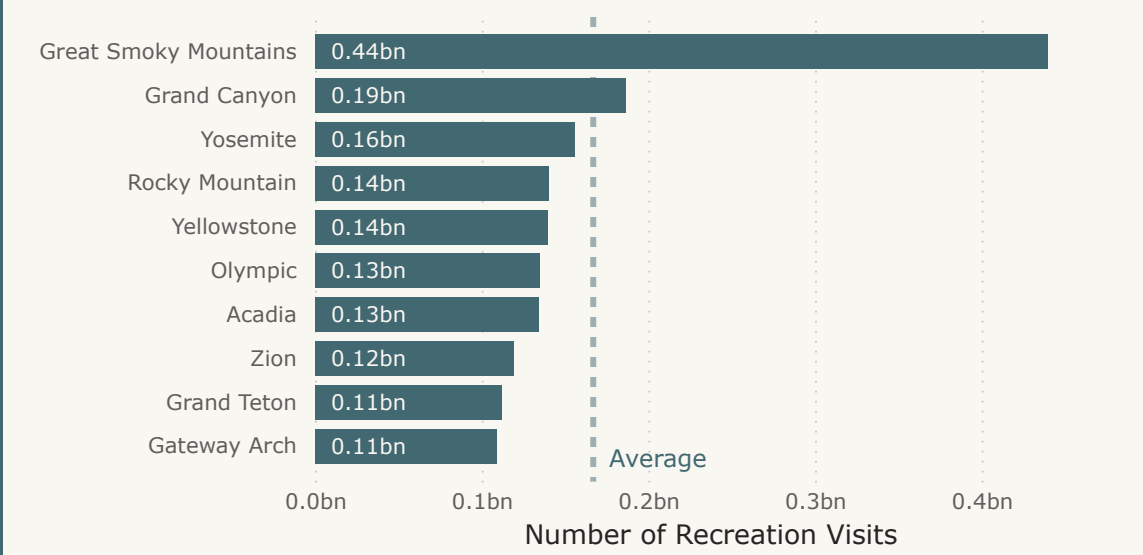
Great Smoky Mountains
Top Park

2023
Peak Year

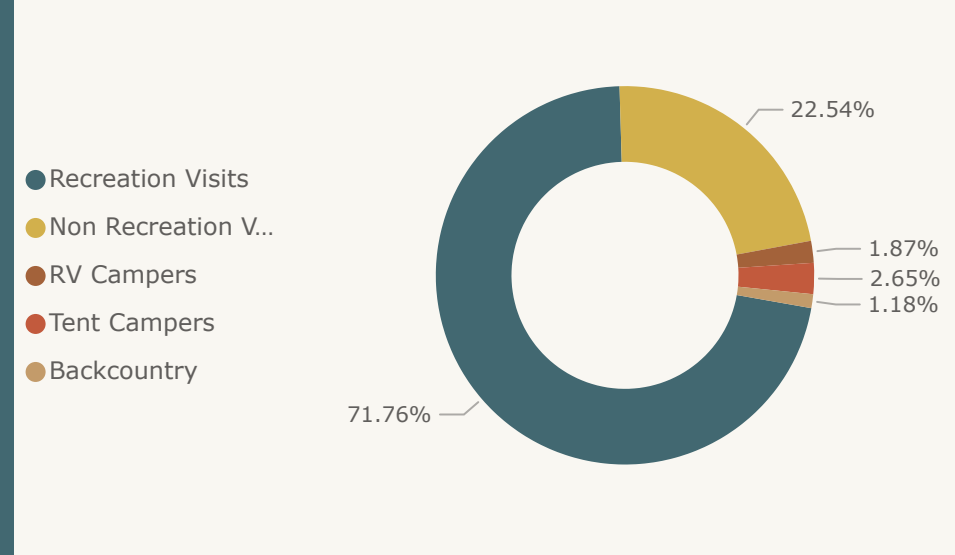
Number of Recreation Visits by Year



Top 10 Parks by Recreation Visits



Proportion of Visit and Camping Types





National Park Visit Trends

(1979 - 2023)

Introduction

Overview

Regional/State

Seasonal/Monthly

Summary

Year

All

66.96M

Average Visits per Park

Intermountain

Top Region/State

Pacific West

Region with Most Camping Visits

4.05M

Average Campers Per Park

Month

All

ParkName

All

Region

All

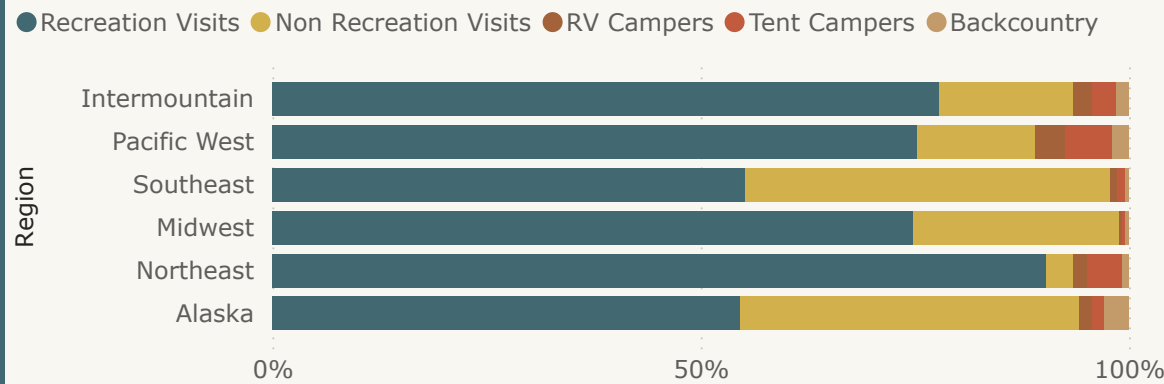
State

All

Unit Code

All

Recreation, Non-Recreation, and Camping Activity by Region



Total Visitors by State



State	Region	Peak Year	Total Visitors	Total Campers
AK	Alaska	2019	83094667	5191630
AR	Midwest	2022	179658815	600225
AS	Pacific West	2017	299130	0
AZ	Intermountain	2018	355016011	19095177
CA	Pacific West	2019	411527997	83438901
CO	Intermountain	2019	195438863	15306887
FL	Southeast	2022	66604489	2779362
HI	Pacific West	1997	179419202	1258216
IN	Midwest	2021	90181284	688904
KY	Southeast	1993	64299434	2599000
ME	Northeast	1989	141135674	7538593
MI	Midwest	1987	917069	1844370
MN	Midwest	1980	10362370	1192294
MO	Midwest	1996	117138453	0
MT	Intermountain	2017	93632398	10075995
ND	Midwest	2021	24246418	1191749
NM	Intermountain	1986	48986344	90906
NV	Pacific West	2017	3884214	1339387
OH	Midwest	1997	98980336	0
OR	Pacific West	2016	24009717	371435
SC	Southeast	2023	3883887	35767
SD	Midwest	1991	90117842	1480358
TN	Southeast	2021	872584254	18319494
TX	Intermountain	2021	23086595	6180427
UT	Intermountain	2021	285034439	20795478
VA	Northeast	1993	69493733	9705759
VI	Southeast	1988	38712646	1224
WA	Pacific West	1997	263317919	21625300
WV	Northeast	2023	41529824	440519
Total		2023	4218318992	255143341



National Park Visit Trends

(1979 - 2023)

Introduction

Overview

Regional/State

Seasonal/Monthly

Summary

Year

All

351.53M

Average Monthly Visitors

93.74M

Average Visitors Per Year

63.51

Cumulative Growth

65M

Lowest Visitors Year

Month

All

ParkName

All

Region

All

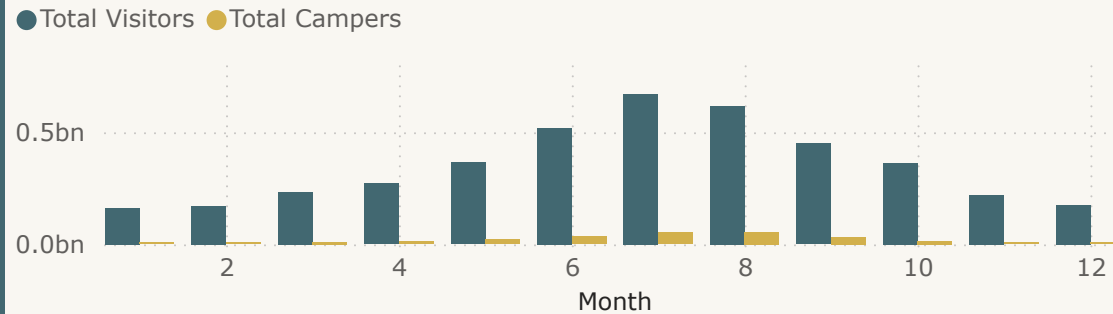
State

All

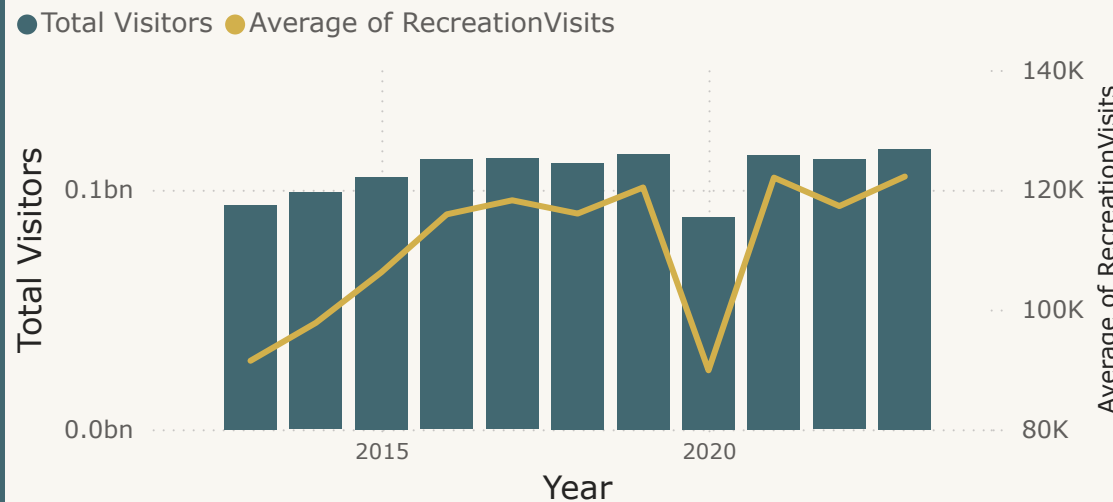
Unit Code

All

Total Visitors and Total Campers by Month



Total Visitors and Average of RecreationVisits by Year



Year	Month	ParkName	Total Visitors	Total Campers
1979	1	Acadia	21263	115
1979	1	Arches	2970	87
1979	1	Badlands	17992	0
1979	1	Big Bend	26860	8706
1979	1	Biscayne	10216	316
1979	1	Black Canyon of the Gunnison	1920	0
1979	1	Bryce Canyon	3458	35
1979	1	Canyonlands	1354	130
1979	1	Capitol Reef	2639	32
1979	1	Carlsbad Caverns	20171	74
1979	1	Channel Islands	2932	0
1979	1	Crater Lake	7421	68
1979	1	Cuyahoga Valley	26500	0
1979	1	Death Valley	54459	32693
1979	1	Denali	15359	86
1979	1	Dry Tortugas	1776	20
1979	1	Everglades	115576	31129
1979	1	Gateway Arch	24082	0
1979	1	Glacier	6367	23
1979	1	Glacier Bay	462	18
1979	1	Grand Canyon	41009	1120
1979	1	Grand Teton	52876	46
1979	1	Great Basin	222	0
1979	1	Great Sand Dunes	1701	34
1979	1	Great Smoky Mountains	304121	3089
1979	1	Guadalupe Mountains	3282	551
1979	1	Haleakala	58316	1076
Total			4218318992	255143341



National Park Visit Trends

(1979 - 2023)

Introduction

Overview

Regional/State

Seasonal/Monthly

Summary

Year

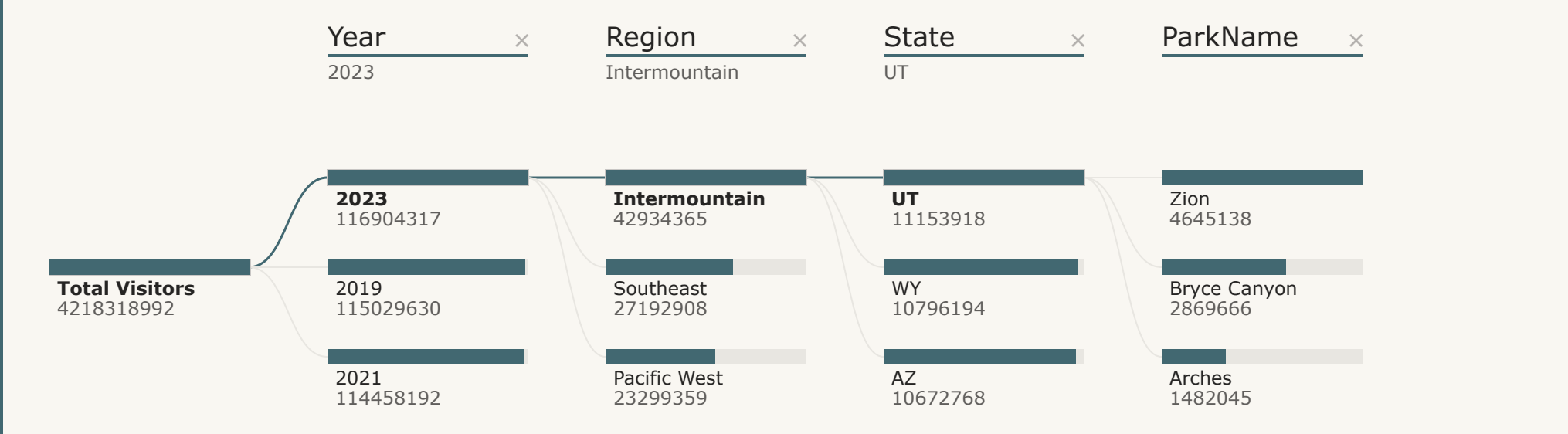
Month

ParkName

Region

State

Unit Code



Park Name	Image	Location	Date Established	Area	Description
Acadia		Maine	2/26/1919	49,071.40 acres	Covering most of Mount Desert Island, Acadia National Park features granite peaks, ocean shoreline, white sand beaches, and historic buildings.
American Samoa		American Samoa	10/31/1988	8,256.67 acres	The southernmost national park is home to beautiful beaches. The area is also home to ancient cultural sites and diverse ecosystems.
Arches		Utah	11/12/1971	76,678.98 acres	This site features more than 2,000 natural rock formations, including the iconic Double Arch. Millions of years of geological activity have created a landscape of sandstone and balancing rocks.
Badlands		South Dakota	11/10/1978	242,755.94 acres	The Badlands are a collection of colorful buttes, spires, and mounds of eroded volcanic tuff. They contain the largest concentration of natural rock art in the United States.